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Statement by United States Representative Betty McCollum

**Commemorating the Annual Observance of the
International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
as Designated by the United Nations**

November 29, 2021

Today, the world reflects on the condition of the Palestinian people who struggle under a brutal military occupation, barely survive under a cruel blockade, exist as second-class citizens inside Israel, and live-in exile far from their homeland. The fundamental human rights all people seek, the rights that ensure safety and security, elevate human dignity, and promote peace and opportunity for the future, have been systematically denied to the Palestinian people for nearly eight decades. The international community has a moral obligation, and I personally feel this obligation, to stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine – defending their human rights, promoting their right to self-determination, and working tirelessly for a path forward toward justice, equality, and freedom for all Palestinians.

And, standing in solidarity with the Palestinian people, I call on the State of Israel to end its military occupation, end its illegal settlement expansion and annexation of Palestinian lands, and end its blockade of Gaza. I also call on the international community, including the U.S. government, to end policies that maintain the status quo, allowing for passive acquiescence to Israel's systematical designed and executed actions to deny the Palestinian people a future in their own homeland. It is time for the world community, especially the Biden administration, to take demonstrable steps toward holding all state and non-state actors in this conflict accountable to internationally recognized standards while working for a diplomatic outcome that will achieve peace, security, and a future of hope and opportunity for Palestinians, Israelis, and all people in the region.

I am proud to stand in solidarity with the mothers and fathers, the elders, and the children of Palestine. And, I pledge to continue to work in partnership with the Palestinian people to build a future of hope and opportunity for today and tomorrow.